CONFIDENTIAL

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

GAD-Special Enforcement Bureau – Plan of action – Destruction of Ganja plant cultivation for the crop year – 2021-22- Approved – Orders-Issued.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (SEB.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.1798 **Dated:27-10-2021.**
Read :-

From the Commissioner of Special Enforcement Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada,Lr.Cr.No.3383/2021/SEB/C3, Dt:12.10.2021.

O R D E R:

In the reference read above the Commissioner of Special Enforcement Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada has furnished Plan of Action for Identification and destruction of the cultivation of Cannabis (Ganja) plantation for the crop year 2021-22 and requested to approve the detailed action plan.

2. Government after careful examination of the proposal of the Commissioner, Special Enforcement Bureau hereby approved the following Action Plan for Identification and destruction of the cultivation of Cannabis (Ganja) plantation for the crop year 2021-22":

Introduction:

In Andhra Pradesh approximately (10,000) acres of land is identified as being under illegal Ganja cultivation in (945) villages of (9) mandals in Visakhapatnam District (i.e., Paderu, G. Madugula, Hukumpeta, Munchangiputt, Pedabayalu, Koyyuru, Dumbriguda, Chintapalli, G.K.Veedhi) and (14) villages in Y.Ramavaram Mandal in East Godavari district.

Out of the above (959) villages, raids were conducted in (292) villages and Ganja cultivation was destroyed in (3121.5) acres of land during the winter of 2017-18. Also, in the year 2018-19 raids were conducted in (37) villages, Ganja cultivation destroyed in 242.36 acres and 2019-20 raids were conducted in (17) villages, Ganja cultivation destroyed in 512.5 acres.

During 2021-22, it is proposed to destroy Ganja cultivation in approximately (4,500) acres of land located in the above (10) Mandals of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts in the **first phase**.

Legal Authority:

Special Enforcement Bureau and Police Officers are authorized under Section 44 of the NDPS Act (as notified) to seize illicit narcotic plants. Under Section 48 of the NDPS Act, the said officer, if he is a Gazetted Officer, can attach the crops and issue orders for destruction of the seized narcotic plants.

Under Section 46 of the NDPS Act, a land holder is obliged to report any illicit cultivation of narcotic plants on his field. Under Section 47 of the NDPS Act, the concerned village /revenue officials and others are obliged to report any

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instance of illicit narcotic crop cultivation in their jurisdiction to any of the officers authorized under Section 42 of NDPS Act.

Implementation Strategy:

Destruction of Ganja cultivation is a humongous challenge, requiring optimum coordination between different field agencies. This objective will be carried out by both SEB and Police Departments together along with Revenue, Forest, ITDA etc. In the interest of efficiency however, the overall nodal officer will be Commissioner, Special Enforcement Bureau who will work under the supervision of Director General of Police, A.P. The other department field officers will extend full cooperation to achieve the designated objective.

Preparation Phase:

1. Co-Operation from ITDA, Revenue, Medical & Health, Forest, Police, NCB is required and coordination meetings may be held with the above departments at District and Mandal levels.

2. Awareness activities like wall posters& posters on public transport vehicles, distribution of pamphlets highlighting the dire consequences of Ganja cultivation; conducting Kala Jathas; etc. These programs shall be conducted both prior to and during the activity of the destruction of Ganja crop.

3. Alternate crop sensitization programs may be conducted by ITDA, both prior to and during the activity of the destruction of Ganja crop.

4. Identifying the illegal financiers of Ganja cultivation and initiating necessary action against them, if they are present locally.

5. Area domination by the Local Police before and during the destruction operations in view of Maoist activities.

6. Procure ADRIN satellite images of the areas of the Ganja crops.

7. Collection of Intelligence regarding areas of Ganja crops.

Collection of Intelligence:

1.Joint Director (Special Unit) Sri C.Narendranath Reddy is the officer incharge of collection of intelligence at SEB State Head Quarters. Further, the Superintendents of Police, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari District shall nominate one officer at Unit Level as in charge for collection of intelligence and coordinating with above officer.

2.Constituting (10) intelligence gathering teams comprising (8) persons for each of these (10) Mandals. Such intelligence teams shall comprise of suitable constables of both the Police and SEB from the concerned agency areas.

3.These intelligence teams will report directly to a **Designated Team** at SEB State Head Quarters headed by Ch. Bala Narasimha (Enforcement Inspector at D.C., Training) and comprising P. Bhanu Satyanarayana (Enforcement

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Inspector) & Bhargavi (Senior Assistant) who will collect and collate such information into the format given below:

Sl. No	Name of the Village and Mandal	Nearest land mark	Distance from the nearest Police Station.	Mode of transportation available & condition of the road	Location from the nearest motorable road point	GPS co-ordinates	Photos/ videos of the site
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

4.Intelligence teams to gather information in those (292) villages that were targeted during 2017-18 so as to confirm whether ganja crop is still being cultivated in those regions where it was previously destroyed. **Those areas shall be targeted initially**.

5.Information is to be gathered by visual confirmation along with photographs/ videos and GPS co-ordinates of the area under ganja cultivation and its approximate extent.

6.If any large extent of land (5 acres or above) under Ganja cultivation is identified such GPS coordinates may be sent to ADRIN for their R&D purpose. After R&D, ADRIN is expected to provide satellite images of Ganja growing area's specific location and extent.

Operation Phase:

1. The Director, SEB will be the State Nodal Officer for operations, assisted by the Assistant Commissioner, State Task Force, SEB, Sri V.Vivek. The Superintendent of Police, Visakhapatnam (Rural) is overall incharge of the operations in Visakhapatnam District assisted by the Joint Director, SEB, Visakhapatnam (Rural) as operations incharge. The Superintendent of Police, East Godavari is overall incharge of the operations in E.Godavari District assisted by the Joint Director, SEB, East Godavari as operations incharge.

2. Security clearance will be given by the concerned district SsP as required.

3. There shall be two control rooms. An Operations Control Room at Narsipatnam / Visakhapatnam headed by one Asst. Commissioner, SEB, Visakhapatnam, assisted by DSP Sri N. Vishnu and another one at SEB State Head quarters will be headed by OSD Sri N. Krishna Kishore Reddy.

4. There shall be (10) raid teams, which will operate using (5) base camps located at Paderu, Chinthapalli, Pedabayalu, Sileru in Visakhapatnam district and Rampachodavaram in East Godavari district, preferably at Youth Training Centers (YTCs) of ITDA.

5. Any one of the two constables, who gathered intelligence from the village will lead the raid team when the raid is scheduled in that village. Other constable in that team will gather intelligence in the remaining villages.

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6. The operational structure is given below:

- Each raid team is headed by one ES/AES and includes one Police Inspector / Sub-Inspector.
- Composition of the raid team:

e. (30) private labour.
f. (7) SEB officials.
g. (7) Civil Police Officials.
h. (1) Armed Special Party / APSP platoon for area domination during destruction operations.

- In every team there shall be sufficient women personnel/staff from other departments like ITDA/ Revenue.
- There shall be mediators and Forest/ Revenue officials in every team.
- Each team is tasked to destroy Ganja crop in (10) acres of land per day approximately.
- Each spell will last for 10 days. So, each team in a spell will target destruction of Ganja crop in approximately (100) acres of land.

7. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed by the teams:

Upon arrival at the site of illicit standing narcotic crop/ Ganja, the officer leading the raid team should do the following:

a) Consult with the village headman (if available there)or the land revenue official who is part of the raid team to ascertain the land identification number and ownership from the land records; follow up with on-the-spot enquiries and identify the land owner and the cultivator.

b) In case of forest land, officer should contact the jurisdictional forest officer through the forest official present along with the raid team, ascertain from records and conduct on the spot enquiries about the details of the cultivator and ensure his presence during proceedings.

c) Take measurement of the field with such crops.

d) Count number of plants. For a rational and fair estimate, he should earmark a sq.meter area at three to four different portions of the land, count the number of plants, uproot or cut the plants and weigh the total. Then, average the number and weight of the plants per sq. meter. and extrapolate the numbers to arrive at the total number and weight for the entire expanse.

e) Seize the standing crop and take representative samples of a few twigs of cannabis plant under panchanama.

f) Furnish a report under Section 57 of the NDPS Act to the Gazetted Officer. If a Gazetted Officer accompanies the search party, there is no need to give such a report and in the panchanama, the presence of the Gazetted Officer should be clearly mentioned.

g) Obtain an attachment order from the Gazetted Officer and order for the destruction of the same.

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h) Proceed to uproot or cut the plants by using manual labour or machinery.

i) Burn the plants.

j) Photograph the standing crop and videograph the entire proceeding mentioning it in the panchanama and retain the photograph / video as evidence.

Note:-

However, the above procedure should be followed in case the ownership of the field with ganja crops cannot be identified as in case of forest land or other government land. A single running panchanama incorporating the entire process from points a) to j) can be drawn.

If the cultivator of the illicit crops is identified, arrested and produced in the court, the Gazetted Officer should not pass the order of destruction without the permission of the court. In such cases, the uprooted crops / plants should be stored in the Malkhana or some other safe / secure place and the process under Section 52A to obtain permission for pre-trial disposal should be immediately initiated. It is only after securing certification under Section 52A that the destruction should be carried out.

Logistic Requirements:

- Approximately (400) SEB & Police officials and (300) private labourers will be engaged in the field as part of (10) teams for a targeted destruction of Ganja crop in (4,500) acres in the **first phase**
- Food & accommodation for the above officers is required at the base camps (YTCs of ITDA)
- Daily operational expenses are to be paid for the intelligence teams who will gather information and provide visual confirmation regarding the location and extent of Ganja cultivation in the said (10) mandals.
- Daily wages to be paid to the private workers engaged for the purpose of cutting and destroying Ganja plants.
- Petrol/Diesel is needed to burn the Ganja crops that were cut and heaped.
- Transportation vehicles are needed for the movement of Officials and private workers from the base camps to the sites of destruction.
- Flame throwers and mechanized plant cutters may also be used which will aid in the process of Ganja plant destruction.
- One Medical team shall be stationed at each base of operation and first aid kits need to be provided to all the teams in the field.
- Photography and videography equipment for each team.
- (5) Body worn cameras for each team.
- (1) Drone and Drone Pilot for each team.
- Communication equipment- Satellite phones and VHF/HF sets.

Budget Estimate:

- An estimated cost of approximately Rs.3.5crores may be incurred for this operation. A proposal has been sent separately for allocation of the budget.

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Tentative Duration of Operations:

- The 1st phase of the operation to destroy Ganja cultivation in 4,500 acres of land is expected to be launched during the last week of October 2021 and is expected to be completed in (6) weeks or as per tactical situation.

3. The Commissioner, Special Enforcement Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada shall take further necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

D.GAUTAM SAWANG
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (HoPF) &
EX-OFFICIO PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner, Special Enforcement Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Director, Special Enforcement Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada.
Copy to:
The PS to the Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.
The PS to Chief Secretary to Government.
The PS to the Director General of Police (HoPF) &
Ex- Officio Principal Secretary to Government.
Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

A.S.Naidu
SECTION OFFICER